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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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AMEMBASSY, PRETORIA.

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FROM :

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TO :

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 14, 1951.

DATE

REF :

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SUBJECT: ANNUAL NOVEMBER 7th. RECEPTION AT THE SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL.

The November 7th. reception in celebration of the 34th. anniversary of the Soviet Revolution was held at the Consul-General's residence in Pretoria. The Acting Consul-General and Mrs. A.A. Hripunov were assisted by the Secretary to the Consul-General, Mr. Alexi D. Yurov.

The Union Government was represented by two senior members of the Department of External Affairs, Mr. R. Jones the Counsellor and Mr. C.H. Taljaard, the Chief of the Protocol. The PAO and Mrs. C.R. Chartrand represented the American Embassy. Other officials present were the Secretary for the Interior and Mrs. J.S. Hurter, the Mayor of Pretoria, Mr. J. Visse, the Chief of the Air Staff and Mrs. H.G. Wilmot.

The Minister for Sweden and Mrs. C.O.G. isle and the Minister for Israeli and Mrs. Goitein were there, and other members of the Diplomatic Corps included the Finnish Charge d'Affairs and Mrs. H. von Knorring; the Egyptian Third Secretary, Mr. A.S. Salama; the Counsellor of the French Embassy, Baron d'Halley; the Attache of the Netherlands Embassy and Mrs. Thurkow; the Acting High Commissioner for Australia and Mrs. Quina; the Assistant Secretary to the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom and Mrs. D.A. Scott; and the Second Secretary to the High Commissioner for Canada and Mrs. A.S. McGill. Also present were the third Secretary to the Argentine Legation, Mr. Quijano; the Secretary to the High Commissioner for India, Mr. P.T. Chari; and the Commercial Attache to the Italian Legation and Mrs. Pieri. About 250 guests were present in all.

A number of business and professional people were in attendance from Johannesburg. There were no public speeches and no toasting, as was the case in former years. Cocktails in the garden were followed by a buffet supper.

Mr. K. Hripunov moved among his guests in a friendly manner and was quite solitious of the PAO and Mrs. Chartrand. A photograph was taken of the PAO in company with the Soviet

/Consul-General

CRChartrand/smr.

REPORTER

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Consul-General, Mr. Taljaard and the Secretary to the High Commissioner for India. This picture appeared in the Pretoria News of the 8th. November.

The Minister of the Krugersdorp Methodist Church, Rev. D. Thompson, who with his wife, has recently returned from the East Berlin Peace Rally and a visit to Moscow, had been, according to the wife, most favourably impressed during their visit by the Russian authorities' "abhorrence of war and desire for peace".

When the PAO expressed his thanks to Mr. Hripunov at departure time, he was told in rather halting English that the Consul-General wished the PAO and his wife to attend a showing of some Russian films, -- "not political, just friendly". "I want to be friendly" he said.

While the diplomatic and official representatives had departed by 8 - 30, other guests were reported to have stayed until past midnight.

A copy of the picture referred to above is enclosed.

For the Ambassador,


Chester R. Chartrand,
Public Affairs Officer.

Enclosure: Clipping from the Pretoria News
dated November 8, 1951.

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